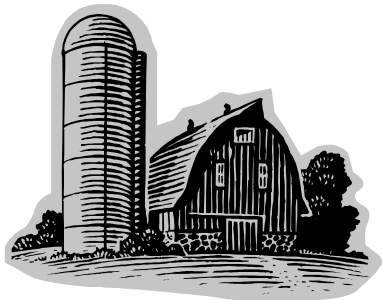


Right to Farm

This general by-law encourages the pursuit of agriculture, promotes agriculture-based economic opportunities, and protects farmlands within the Town of Marshfield by allowing agricultural uses and related activities to function with minimal conflict with abutters and Town Agencies. This by-law shall apply to all jurisdictional areas within the Town.



This right to farm by-law reinforces for all citizens and future citizens of Marshfield, that we cherish the right to farm here, continuing the traditions established by Daniel Webster and our founding families.



Agricultural History

Marshfield has had a private, non-profit Agricultural and Horticultural Society since 1867.

Daniel Webster organized cattle shows on the Training Green and following his lead, the first agricultural fair was held in 1862 by the South Marshfield Farmers' Club. Over time this group developed into the Marshfield Agricultural and Horticultural Society which organized the Marshfield Fair, one of the oldest agricultural fairs in the country.



The Marshfield Farmers' Market was established in 2006, and is sponsored by the Marshfield Agricultural and Horticultural Society.

You can find an assortment of vendors at the Marshfield Fairgrounds every Friday from 2 - 6pm June through October.

In April of 2007, the Town of Marshfield voted to uphold the Right to Farm, as well as establish an Agricultural Commission.

The Agricultural Commission represents the farming community, and acts as a facilitator in encouraging the pursuit of agriculture in Town.

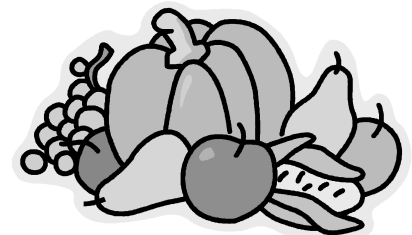


"Did you know that Massachusetts is the #1 in the USA in sales from farm to consumer on a per-farm basis?"

Did you know that 10 of the 14 counties rank in the top 5% of US counties in direct farm sales?

We rank in the top third of all states in the production of cranberries, wild blueberries, squash, maple syrup, raspberries, apples, pumpkins, organic farm products, pears and high bush blueberries."

- Doug Gillespie, Former Commissioner of Agriculture, Mass



The word "farm" shall include any parcel or contiguous parcels of land, or water bodies used for the primary purpose of commercial agriculture, or accessory thereto.

- Farming and all its branches and the cultivation and tillage of the soil.
- Dairying
- Production, cultivation, growing, and harvesting of any agricultural, aquacultural, floricultural, viticulture, or horticultural commodities.
- Growing and harvesting of forest products upon forest land, and any other forestry or lumbering operations.
- Raising of livestock including horses.
- Keeping, training, and boarding of horses as a commercial or private enterprise.
- Keeping and raising of poultry, swine, cattle, ratites (such as emus, ostriches, and rheas) and camelids (such as llamas and alpacas) and other domesticated animals for food and other agricultural purposes, including bees and fur-bearing animals.



"Farming" shall encompass activities including, but not limited to, the following:

- The operation and transportation of slow moving farm equipment over roads within the Town
- Control of pests, including, but not limited to, insects, weeds, predators, and disease organisms of plants and animals.
- Application of manure, fertilizers and pesticides.
- Conducting agriculture-related educational and farm-based recreational activities, including agri-tourism, provided that the activities are related to marketing the agricultural output or services of the farm.
- Processing and packaging of the agricultural output of the farm and the operation of a farmers' market or farm stand including signage thereto.
- Maintenance, repair, or storage of seasonal equipment, or apparatus owned or leased by the farm or manager used expressly for the purpose of propagation, processing, management, or sale of the agricultural products.
- On-Farm relocation of earth and the clearing of ground for farming operations.
- Construction, operation or maintenance of ditches, canals, reservoirs, or waterways used exclusively for farming purposes.
- The operation, management, conservation, improvement or maintenance of a farm and its buildings, tools, and equipment, or salvaging timber or cleared land of brush or other debris left by a storm, as an incident to such farming operations.

Town of Marshfield

Right to Farm



**Marshfield Agricultural Commission
870 Moraine Street
Marshfield, MA 02050**

**Cheryl Mechan, Chairman
(781) 837-6893**